

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 368

By Byrd

A RESOLUTION to honor the president, board, and members of the Wayne County Forestry Association on being named the 2016 County Forestry Association of the Year.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in recognizing a local organization that works with purpose to enhance financial sustainability for the major industry in its community; and

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Forestry Association (WCFA) has been named the 2016 County Forestry Association (CFA) of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association, an award that recognizes the longstanding commitment to forestry evidenced by one of the first CFAs in the State; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, ten years before the CFA movement was initiated, Extension Agent Ken Burress founded the original WCFA to deal with the issue of controlled access on privately owned forest lands; in 2005, the organization became partners in the larger, statewide movement; and

WHEREAS, WCFA is deeply committed to the growth and prosperity of forestry and the timber industry, the prime economic forces in Wayne County; over three-quarters of the county is forested by 382,000 acres of woodland, and it is home to seventy master loggers and six wood-product mills; and

WHEREAS, the Wayne CFA represents both small and large landowners, loggers, mills, and land companies; a diverse group of board members offers guidance to the association and its members; and

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Forestry Association has developed progressive ideas to develop markets for pulpwood and other finished wood products and helps fuel the economic

growth of the county by promoting the responsible management of forests and building relationships with stakeholders in the timber industry; and

WHEREAS, WCFA's mission of "service and education" has remained constant throughout the years; the association meets regularly for educational events on such topics as forest health, management planning, invasive species, cost-share programs, and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, in a commendable civic endeavor, WCFA now provides a \$500 scholarship each year to a Wayne County high school senior who plans to major in natural resources in college; and

WHEREAS, the Wayne CFA greatly benefits from the leadership and vision of President James Kelly and board members Martin Haggard, Jr., Johnathon Creasy, Audra Flippo, Johnny Hensley, Dean Stegall, Larry McDonald, and Blake Crews; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the president, board, and members of the Wayne County Forestry Association on being named the 2016 County Forestry Association of the Year, salute the association's ongoing commitment to forestry, and extend to these good people our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.